

Application No.: 10/720,389  
Art Unit: 2833

Page 2

Remarks/Arguments

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Law et al.

In reply thereto, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As clearly defined in the claims, applicant's invention comprises a square tubular portion having a rectangular section and a cylindrical portion having a circular section, and at least one key or key groove provided on or in the cylindrical portion for preventing a plugging error to the mating connector.

With respect to the prior art, Law et al. disclose a keyed electronic interconnect device comprising an interconnect body 26 including an alignment notch 46 on each sidewall 42, 44. A recess 74 is defined in the body 26.

However, Law et al. neither disclose nor suggest any key or key groove provided on or in said cylindrical portion for preventing a plugging error to said mating connector.

The Action appears to point out as a key groove a portion of the recess 74 in Fig. 2.

However, the portion of the recess 74 receives no key to prevent a plugging error to the mating connector. In fact, it is the notch 46 that receives the elongated key 96 of a mating connector. Law's notch 46 is not provided on or in the cylindrical portion but on each sidewall 42, 44 of the rectangular body 26.

Application No.: 10/720,389

Page 3

Art Unit: 2833

For these reasons, it is submitted that applicant's invention recited in the claims is patentable over Law et al.

In paragraphs 3 of the Action, claims 4 and 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reply thereto, applicant believes that the base claims are patentable so that claims 4 and 6-8 are patentable for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 1-3 and 5.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, claims 1-8 allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
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